

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades,

I just got back from our Junior Vice Commander's Training Conference in Kansas City, Missouri and I had the great opportunity to learn a lot of vital information that are essential to perform my duties and help on our mission in the VFW. I had the chance to meet with our VFW National Junior Vice Commander In Chief Duane Sarmiento and the rest of JVCs in the whole 52 states to include the Pacific Areas and Europe. We were trained and given a lot of materials regarding various VFW Programs and met up with VFW National Directors and learned firsthand on how each Program works and how to get the various Resources to get the Mission done. One of the important subjects that we have discussed is the Community Service Program and the VFW National Dashboard.

Community Service and Program reporting is vital to being able to show what our VFW members are doing in their communities and to recognize those members at our Department Convention and National Programs. It can also be complex because of the different reporting requirements between our organizations. The goal of online reporting is to make it easier to understand what can be reported and to simplify the reporting process with paper and online reporting options.

The VFW reporting year now ends on **31 March 2022** and all reports must be received at Department no later than **8 April 2022**

Program and Community Service Reporting is designed for "activity" based reporting which is reporting a given "activity" such as a poppy drive that you held for your Post or Auxiliary that applies to programs, service to veterans, their families, and our communities. The activities listed in the forms are those defined by VFW Programs and include all required details. For example, the number of poppies and handouts distributed in a poppy drive. See below for the different categories that we as a VFW Organization need to report:

Americanism and Citizenship Education

Activities that can be reported by the VFW or Auxiliary under this category relate to the promotion, participation and education of patriotism and celebration of patriotic holidays including:

- Public patriotic holiday programs
- US flag programs, flag etiquette, flag retirements
- Patriotic education, Veterans in the Classroom
- Business recognition
- Blue Star, Gold Star recognition

Buddy Poppy

Activities that can be reported by the VFW or Auxiliary under this category relate to the promotion and distribution of Buddy Poppies, including:

- Buddy Poppy program promotion, both within the Post or Auxiliary and in the community
- Buddy Poppy drives



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Community Activities, Community Outreach

Activities that can be reported by the VFW or Auxiliary under this category relate to aiding and volunteering as an organization to the benefit of our communities and are not directly related to other VFW or VFW Auxiliary programs, including:

- Helping the elderly and special needs populations
- Blood drives
- Hunger, Homelessness projects for the general population

Note: This category is for projects and activities that **are not** affiliated with VFW or VFW Auxiliary programs and do not directly benefit the Post of Auxiliary. For example, activities such as performing repairs or maintenance to the Post home, preparing, or serving a meal for a Post or Auxiliary fundraiser, or participating in a Buddy Poppy distribution cannot be reported under this section. Also, projects that are specifically for Veterans such as stand downs should be reported under Veterans and Military Family support. Also, Auxiliary members may be able to report activities for organizations outside of their own provided that the project was approved by the Auxiliary and recorded in the meeting minutes prior to the project.

Hospital

Activities that can be reported under this category relate to volunteering, sponsoring, and providing services and aid to both VA and non-VA facilities in support of the veterans that facilities service, including:

- Aid to VA and Non-VA facilities
- Donations of items or services
- Hospital visits and sponsoring hospital events or activities
- Volunteering in any medical facility, recruiting volunteers
- Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program

Legislative

Activities that can be reported under this category relate to improving the lives of veterans, service members and their families through advocacy, including:

- Promotion of VFW Priority Goals
- Participation in election activities
- Attending legislative events such as town halls

National Home

Activities that can be reported under this category relate to the support of the VFW National Home for Children, including:

- Promotion of the National Home and the National Home Hotline
- Fundraising and donations to the National Home

Scholarships

Activities that can be reported under this category relate to the support of VFW and Auxiliary scholarships and Teacher award including:

- Promotion of scholarships programs
- Assisting with program preparation such as coordinating resources and judges
- Hosting awards ceremonies



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Veterans and Military Family Support

Activities that can be reported under this category relate to supporting Veterans and Military and their families including:

- Fundraising for National Veterans Service (NVS), VFW Unmet needs, Help a Hero, etc.
- Promotion of suicide prevention and mental health awareness
- Homeless Veteran events or projects
- Direct aid to Veterans, Active Duty and their families
- Other - such as participation in veteran funerals, honor guards, etc.

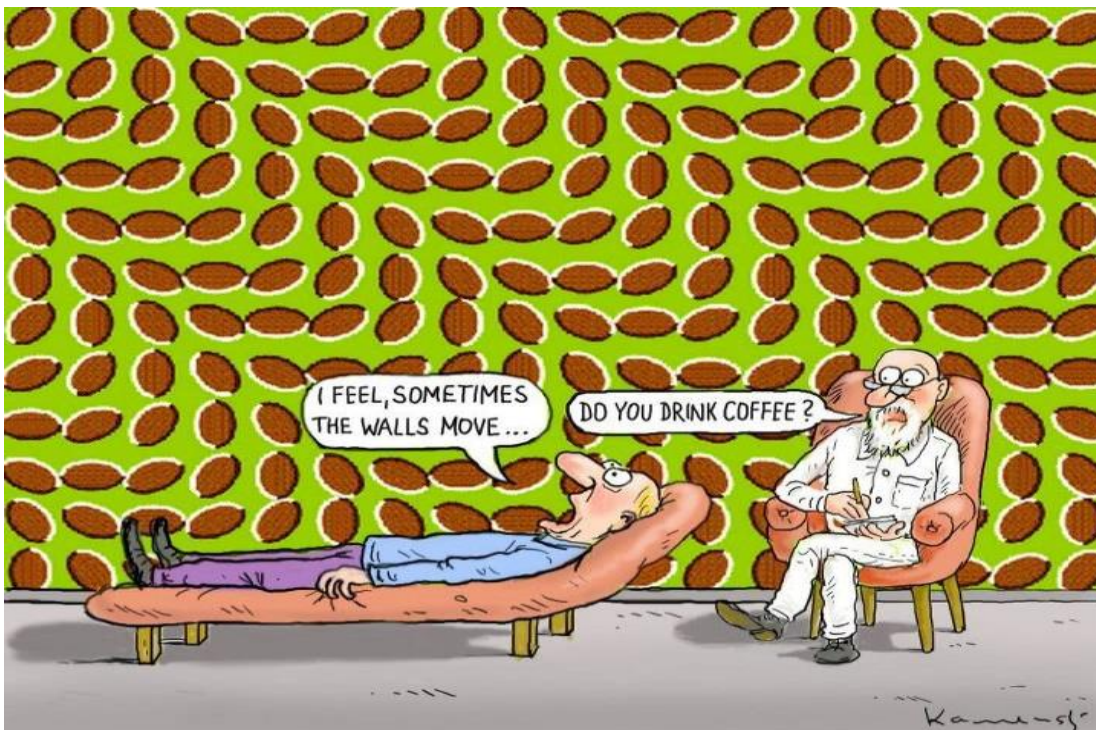
Youth Activities

Activities that can be reported under this category relate to sponsoring and working with youth groups including:

- Supporting Scouting and ROTC programs
- VFW, Auxiliary activities with youth groups
- Promotion, participation in Illustrating America, Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue programs
- Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans citations and Patriotic Youth Awards presentations

I do hope this gives you a better view on what to report on your Community Service Reports and in closing, as we come to celebrate the Holiday Seasons, I wish each and everyone a Safe, a Joyful and a Happy Holidays. Yours In Comradeship and Service!

Alexander B. Fores
Junior Vice Commander
Department of Pacific Areas
EVERY Veteran is a HERO



Junior Vice Commander

Alex Fores



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